

# EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

2026 GUIDELINES  
DEADLINES FOR APPLYING: MARCH 26, JUNE 25,  
SEPTEMBER 10 AND NOVEMBER 5, 2026



## | About Us

The success of New England's families and communities depends on a public education system where all of our students have the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed. The Nellie Mae Education Foundation is committed to ensuring every young person in New England has access to excellent, rigorous, and relevant educational experiences that support their healthy development and prepare them to thrive in school, community, and careers of the future.

## | Background

The Foundation is proud to have supported hundreds of organizations across New England through our Event Sponsorship program, offering one-time event support that closely aligns with our [mission, vision, and values](#). Over the last several years, the number of sponsorship requests the Foundation received has increased exponentially, requiring us to assess, clarify, and tighten our criteria, eligibility, and selection process. Please carefully review the Criteria and Eligibility sections below before submitting a request.

Applicants can apply for an Event Sponsorship up to \$5,000.

## | Criteria for Selection

- **Mission & Values Alignment:** The organization's mission champions efforts that advance excellent student-centered public education within one or multiple local communities in New England.
- **One-Time Event:** The organization is applying for an Event Sponsorship to support a one-time event such as, but not limited to: a conference, learning event, product/research or white paper launch/release, community meeting, or an in-person fundraiser. **The Event Sponsorship program is NOT designed to fund opening/closing celebrations for programs/camps, workshops/training series that take place on multiple days throughout the year or extended time period, operations, programming, capital campaigns, or online fundraising.**

## | Eligibility

- Organizations that received an Event Sponsorship from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation in 2025 are not eligible to receive one for 2026 events.
- The event must target communities in one or more of the New England states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, or Vermont).



- The requesting organization’s current-year budget does not exceed \$2M.
- The event must be scheduled for 2026 or in the first four months of 2027.
- Current grantees and partners (organizations with a current contract with the Foundation) are not eligible.
- The proposed grant recipient is an educational organization that is either a public school or district or that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and classified as a public charity described in either section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- The proposed grant recipient is not a private foundation, supporting organization, or religious organization.
- The proposed grant recipient will follow all federal and state anti-discrimination laws, and will not deny or provide services based on race, color, or national origin.
- The proposed grant recipient agrees not to use any portion of the grant to participate in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, to make grants to individuals on a nonobjective basis, to support terrorist acts or organizations that further terrorist activities, or for any non-charitable purpose. There is no agreement, oral or written, permitting the grant to be directed to or earmarked for carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.

### | Additional Information

#### Deadline

Applications are due by 5:00 PM, EST on the following Thursdays:

March 26

June 25

September 10

November 5

#### Proposal Submission Directions

Applications will be accepted using our [online application portal](#). Once you are logged in click on the Apply for a Grant Button. Start the application by filling in the Request Name field and clicking “Save”. Once this step is completed, you can log out and come back to complete and submit it at any time. If you need assistance submitting a proposal or have questions, please contact Stephanie Cheney at [scheney@nmeffoundation.org](mailto:scheney@nmeffoundation.org).